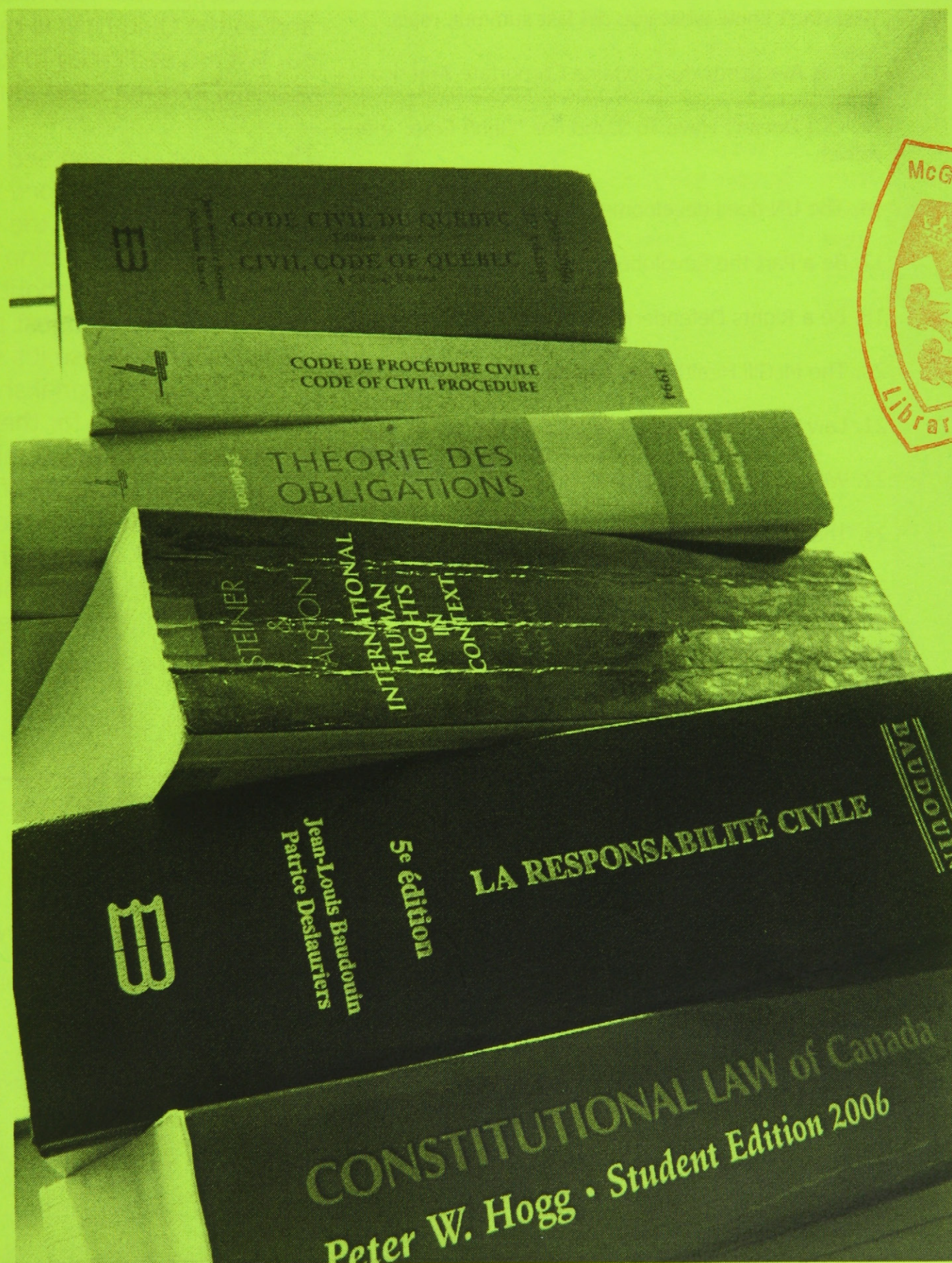


# QUID NOVI

**McGill University, Faculty of Law**  
**Volume 28, no. 1, September 11, 2007**





## QUID NOVI IN THIS ISSUE...

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## EDITORIAL

by **Andrea Gorys (Law III)**  
**Co-Editor-in-Chief**

**W**elcome back everyone! Et la bienvenue aux nouveaux étudiants!

I hope everyone had a great summer filled with relaxation and enjoyment. September has finally come and so the Quid Novi is rearing to go. We are dedicated to keeping you well informed and amused :).

This first issue is jammed packed with articles for everyone from: explaining faculty life to the new kids on the block to reminding us old geasers what it's all about, to cartoons, OCIs info and just plain fun reading. And because it's so full I must keep this editorial short to have enough room for the table of contents, but I'm not complaining! I would like to thank all of those who contributed their articles. If you like what you see and think it's cool, please feel free to join the Quid Novi. I'm in major need of staff!

Here's to a great year!

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<http://www.law.mcgill.ca/quid/epolicy/html>.

Contributions should preferably be submitted as a .doc attachment.



# La rentrée sous le signe des « obligations » et de la « responsabilité »

par Doyen Nicholas Kasirer

**H**owever carefree your summer may or may not have been, the return to classes requires every member of this community, from the wizened fourth-year student to the new professors, from returning doctoral students to members of the entering class of Law I, to change pace. Suddenly we are all confronted with obligations and responsibilities that only days before seemed like abstractions – readings, lectures, papers, internships and more – and the stress level of daily life increases exponentially.

Comment donc composer avec le niveau de stress qui accompagne nos obligations et nos responsabilités ? Prononcer ces deux petits mots dans une faculté de droit évoque le personnage de Jean-Louis Baudouin – diplômé de la Faculté de droit de l'Université McGill (B.C.L. 1958) avant d'entreprendre sa grande carrière comme professeur de droit, de chercheur en droit privé

fondamental, et de juge. Au mois de juin, l'Université McGill a choisi d'honorer M. Baudouin – l'auteur des ouvrages *Les obligations* et *La responsabilité civile* – avec un doctorat honoris causa lors de la collation des grades de la Faculté de droit.

Reflecting on Justice Baudouin's career provides a happy perspective on the ideas of "obligations" et "responsabilité" as we undertake a new academic year. Generally one thinks of obligations as a constraint on freedom, such that the time spent on activities in the Law Faculty can be understood – speaking euphemistically – to "cut in on one's free time". But is it possible to think of another understanding of the obligation as relevant to the choice to join the law journal, run for the L.S.A., rally for the Women's Caucus, lead the Arab Law Students Association or write for the *Quid Novi*. These "obligations" are not a constraint on freedom, but instead a way to be freer still. This

idea was spoken to at convocation as a way to honour Justice Baudouin and the graduating class of 2007 which showed an astounding commitment to student activities in the Faculty.

I include a portion of my convocation address below as a modest way of encouraging each of you to take up "obligations" in the social and intellectual life of the Faculty. Don't let your studies get in the way of your legal education. Bonne rentrée!

Excerpts from the Law Convocation address of June 1, 2007 by Dean Nicholas Kasirer, McGill University

Every class is extraordinary, but my colleagues and I cannot help but observe a special public-spiritedness that characterizes this particular convocation, spoken to moments ago with elegance and understanding by our valedictorian Joshua Parr. Alors permettez-moi d'ajouter, au bravo lancé ce matin, un grand merci de la part de tous vos professeurs et de tout le personnel administratif de l'Université McGill pour vos riches contributions à l'esprit de corps qui anime la Faculté de droit.

There is a palpable generosity in this great class that has been made plain in the powerful community you have helped build at 3644 Peel over the last three or four years. Many of your professors have remarked to me that this group has evinced an unusual degree of solidarity. And it is as much outside the classroom that this finds expression, in your shared sense that law students must take up a place in the public square as part of their identity as jurists. This is the source of profound pride for me as a university professor and profound optimism for me as a citizen.

Madam Principal, let me give you a taste of some of the things that members of the class of 2007 have been up to in their moments of leisure. These are the students that have lit up the McGill Legal Information Clinic; founded the McGill Health Law Publication; set a further scholarly journal on sustainable development law on a firm financial and intellectual footing; published 12 numbers of the venerable McGill Law Journal, the oldest student-founded law review in this country; launched *Innocence McGill*; went to press as *Quid Novi* and The



Kracken and on the McGill airwaves with Legal Ease; they turned to the theatre with Actus Reus; they have ensured that the Human Rights Working Group remains a going concern. The class of 2007 reached out to high school students and to aboriginal communities in a bold new student initiative to improve accessibility to a legal education. They established a vibrant Graduates Law Student Association; they enlivened the life of the Faculty with dozens of clubs and associations, from Disability and the Law to OUTLAW McGill, from the Latin American Law Students Association to the Canadian Constitutional Club. They have Women Caucus-ed, Skit-Nite-ed and Coffee House-d beyond the call of duty. All of this energy makes the course aux stages seem to be a sleepy affair, but my spies tell me that this class excelled there as elsewhere.

If public-spiritedness is a hallmark of the class of 2007, it would seem to stand in contrast with the image of strategic behaviour and careerism that one sometimes hears associated with the law and its students. How are we to make sense of this grand tradition of generosity amongst students in the Faculty of Law in an age

of consumerism and against the background of a culture of entitlement that characterizes much of the way in which law is spoken to in everyday life?

Je me permets de tourner vers votre compagnon de classe, Jean-Louis Baudouin, qui offre une piste d'explication dans ses travaux scientifiques pour la fraternité exemplaire de la promotion 2007. Les deux mots-phares dans la carrière de M. Baudouin – « obligations », et « responsabilité » – placent l'idée du devoir accompli, le souci pour son prochain, à l'avant-scène de l'imaginaire du juriste.

Il n'est pas sans importance que dès votre arrivée à la Faculté, ses mots « obligations » et « responsabilité », soient utilisés pour nommer les cours qui vous offrent le fondement de votre formation en tant que juriste. C'est notamment le mot « responsabilité » – beaucoup plus que ses faux amis « liability » ou « torts » en langue anglaise – qui sert de trame pour une vie de juriste fondé sur l'éthique de secours et d'assistance. Certes la responsabilité dont parlent vos cours d'Obligations extracontractuelles vise la réparation du préjudice causé à autrui par la faute plutôt que

l'obligation de conférer un avantage à son prochain. Mais en relisant les traités de M. Baudouin avec votre bonne action civique à l'esprit, je vois qu'il souligne, pour nous tous, la fragilité des distinctions entre l'« obligation civile », l'« obligation naturelle » et l'« obligation morale ». La solidarité entre les membres de la promotion de 2007 nous rappelle la difficulté de faire la part des choses entre « devoir moral » et « devoir juridique » dans la vie de tous les jours.

In a way, your energy in the International Law Society or the Black Law Students' Association, and in so many other settings, has served to complete your education beyond the classroom. It also reminds your professors that an idea of responsibility and obligation beyond the confines of corrective justice is at the heart of our lives as jurists. And it would seem, in observing how your teachers are themselves involved in civic life beyond McGill, that they share your view of engaged community life. I have colleagues devoting themselves to animal rights, on boards of youth orchestras, churches and synagogues, working at the Sierra Club and Égale Canada, coaching soccer

and presiding over daycares. Part of the identity of a law teacher, like that of a law student, is wrapped up in an ideal of engaged citizenship. And this civic mindedness seems to be in the water at McGill.

Graduates of this great Faculty that I have met over recent months are not only bâtonniers and law society benchers, but chairs of hospital boards, colleges, charitable foundations, volunteers in museums and at the YMCA. McGill law grads seem to have a special taste for volunteering at universities. In that spirit I salute our Chancellor Dick Pound who proudly bears, like you, his degree of Bachelor of Civil Law in his role as (in the words of our Principal) the "volunteer-in-chief" of McGill. He does this as part of a long tradition of university service for lawyers; indeed McGill's very first chancellor, Charles Dewey Day, for whom the law building is named, was a renowned codifier and judge. I note that our generous graduate David O'Brien, BCL 1965 volunteers as Chancellor of Concordia, our sister university in Montreal, and that one of the Faculty's greatest examples of duty to others, Alex Paterson BCL 1956, was not only chairman of McGill's Board for many



years but also that of the MUHC and Chancellor of Bishop's University. Alex celebrated 50 years as a graduate this past year and offers to all of us a model career that balances professional achievement and the public good. He demonstrated to McGill alumni that public service is not incompatible with any career choice in the law.

On peut donc bien prétendre que cette idée de « responsabilité » pour son prochain □ de répondre de ses actes devant sa conscience □ se situe en dehors du domaine juridique, mais on ne peut pas dire

qu'elle est en dehors de la Faculté de droit. Je me tourne encore vers notre docteur honoris causa Jean-Louis Baudouin, BCL 1958 pour noter sa longue carrière de juriste- bénévole dans la cité □ au début de sa carrière à la Ligue des droits de l'homme, plus tard comme membre du comité d'éthique de plusieurs hôpitaux du Québec et depuis bientôt 35 ans comme président de l'Association Henri-Capitant (section québécoise). Comme vous tous, il est allé au-delà des « privilèges et droits » conféré à lui avec son Bachelor of Civil Law et a consacré,

dans sa vie privée et professionnelle, presque 50 ans à travailler à l'idéal de l' « obligation » non seulement comme juriste mais aussi comme citoyen.

So whether you expressed your public-spirited McGill identity in the Health Law Group, or the Jewish or Arab Law Student Associations, or even in the McGill Law Wine Appreciation Club, I applaud your rich understanding of "obligation" anchored in positive liberty, of "responsibility" measured by distributive justice, not as a burden on freedom but as a source of happiness. Je salue

votre conception originale de la « responsabilité collective » issue non pas de la faute commune, comme le veulent les codes civils, mais d'un vinculum juris propre à McGill qui vous gardera « solidaire » pour des années à venir. And you can count on me to gently remind you of your sense of responsibility to McGill sometime soon. La responsabilité comporte ses privilèges.

Longue vie à la promotion 2007n

■

## First-Year Groups: Which prof will be buying you coffee this year?

by Prof. Geneviève Saumier, Associate Dean (Academic)

**O**ver the next few weeks, all newly entering undergraduate students in the Faculty of Law will be receiving an invitation from a professor to meet as a First-Year Group, a.k.a. FYG. This is not spam! It is just one way that the Faculty seeks to support your transition into the pro-

gram and the community. FYGs are meant to be informal moments of encounter, allowing students to gather in a convivial setting with a Faculty member who is not one of their first-year professors.

The FYG initiative has a broad mandate: to establish direct non-teaching links between

students and faculty, to create mentoring opportunities for students that can continue into their upper years, to provide space for open discussion about law and legal education in a small group context, to increase visibility of Faculty for entering students, to support and enhance communication and exchange among students and between students and faculty and, finally, to alert students to ongoing research in the Faculty and to the link between legal education, legal pedagogy and legal research and writing.

While each professor is

free to pursue one or more of these objectives as he or she sees fit, each FYG will meet at least once each term, at a time when no first-year courses are scheduled.

Je vous invite donc à répondre rapidement – et avec enthousiasme! – à l'invitation qui vous sera éventuellement faite. J'ose espérer que ces occasions d'échanger avec un petit groupe de collègues et un professeur de la Faculté seront enrichissantes

■



# The Final Sunshine Article

by Alison Glaser Law III (I am so old)

Welcome back everyone. It is kind of strange to start off the year with a final article, but alas, I was at a conference when the last Quid of last year was being put together and missed my opportunity to sign off then. For those of you who have never read the Quid before (because you are in first year, or for some other reason for which you should hang your head in shame), I have been writing Sunshine Articles for the last two years. The ethos of the article is that it should combat some of the doom and gloom one hears and feels around the hallowed halls of Chancellor Day High. The articles started off with relaxation tips and health/wellness advice in general, and somehow morphed slightly into my own random and hopefully somewhat witty musings and lots of time extolling the virtues of chocolate. However, I'm just out of advice. I'm old now. Past it. A cynical third year. That, and, unsurprisingly, I took on too many extras last year and now I have to

cut back (both for fear of a sinking GPA and an imminent divorce. Ok that was a joke. Mostly). If you are dying to read articles by me you can check out my writings for the Student Advocacy office in the campus press.

Anyway, this article is mostly ripped directly from an article I wrote last year. I have changed a few things, added a few cynical comments (due to my new-found third year cynicism). The advice, though, is pretty much as true as ever. Seriously, don't stress. Too much, anyway.

As this is the beginning of the year, I thought I would make this article a bit of a myth-buster (though sadly I won't get to blow anything up. Anyone else love that TV show? Ok, I digress). So I present to you some myths about law school that you may hear and/or think: Myth one: The admissions committee made a mistake and I got in through some fluke. I don't deserve to be here.

Now, the fact that many

if not most of us feel this should tell you something right off the bat. IT IS NOT TRUE. Really smart people, in my experience, are humbled by the knowledge of others and by how much they themselves have to learn. This has the advantage of making us nice people who do not possess god complexes, but has the disadvantage of making us extremely paranoid about our abilities. I am sure that if you asked your classmates and even your professors, they will tell you that many times throughout their lives they have felt like a fraud, that they are not really smart and that some day someone will find them out!!!! Even my mother, who is a doctor and is known around the world in her doctor type circles feels this way. As Prof. Lametti says, there is something about you that sparked the admissions committee's interest, which means you deserve to be here. Never forget that. Myth two: Law school is the hardest/most painful/worst experience that you will ever have. Now, there are some people who discover that law is not for them, in which case the above statement may be true. But for the majority of people here, law school is probably going to be fun. I'm serious! All of

us are sufficiently nerdy that on some level we enjoy learning and thinking about fun legal issues. Law is about people, about human interaction, about using language to get a point across. It is complex and varied, it sometimes doesn't make much sense, but it will always make you think. And that is something that is really worthwhile. I'm not saying that when you've been working on your memo for days, and it's still not quite right, and you've suddenly run out of candy and your fingers hurt from typing and you call up your friend and have a good cry, that you should still think of law school as fun. Of course there are going to be difficult times. You do have to work very hard, and it is different from anything you have done before (see below). All that I am saying is that there are a lot of benefits and positives to law school and that you should try and focus on those as much as possible. Myth three: I don't get what is happening in my classes because I don't have the right background from my undergrad/cegep. Now, I have to confess, I am guilty of having uttered something along these lines myself. And there is no doubt that those people with a phi-



philosophy undergrad may have a slightly easier time when Prof. Manderson talks about Derrida (I'm still not 100% sure what deconstructionism is all about...) and those with a criminology degree won't have to learn what mens rea and actus reus are, but really, after that, we are all in the same boat. You have done nothing like this before, so no matter if you have a degree in poly sci, engineering, or bio chem., you really have no more advantage or disadvantage over anyone else. What you do have are good study skills and an ability to think critically, and that, my friends, is really all you need at this point. Law school is completely different from undergrad, and everyone has to learn the new vocabulary, how to read cases, how to make summaries, how to analyze materials, at the same time. I promise.

Myth four: now that I am in law school, I have to change the way I study

This was the best advice I got from a friend who is a year ahead of me at NYU. Whatever you have been doing up until now worked for you, so don't change because you think you have to for some reason. You work well with study groups – great, make lots of study groups. You hate study groups, don't do them.

You like taking notes on computer – no problem, you can clack away and have the CCQ book-marked on your desktop. Can't stand computers? Then use paper. There is no model for the "successful law student". The only thing that is sure is that if you try and force yourself to be something that doesn't work for you, then you will not perform as well.

Myth five: law students are cut-throat and will never help each other out.

Now I can't speak for other law schools, clearly, but I was pleasantly surprised first year at how much this is not true. From pointing out where the books are in the library that you need to do your legal meth assignment, to passing along great summaries, to sending you notes when you have to miss class, your classmates are the best resource around. I also found they were a great source of comfort when I was stressed and a really great source for parties when I needed to unwind. The awesomeness of my year was one of the best things about law school, so I only hope that this incoming class can carry on the tradition!

Myth six: I can no longer have a life because I need to work all the time.

Right people. Take a

deep breath and repeat after me: the library is not my permanent residence! This myth is so untrue it is not even funny. Some people seem to thrive on working all night long, but if you are not one of those people then DON'T DO IT. You do not have to do all of your reading. In fact, it is impossible to do it, so there is no need to get stressed about it. Did you go to class? Do you have an idea of why the case is relevant? Fine, then move on! (Now, of course I am not advocating that you not do any of your readings, just that if you really can't get through them all, then you should not worry. Unless, First Years, you end up in my tutorial for Torts. In which case you should do all your readings all the time). You get a 24 hour take-home exam? I guarantee you that it will not be improved by you staying up all night to write it.

People often ask me how I manage at law school doing so many activities and being married, etc. Basically, I treat this like an 8-6 job. I do work at school (and a lot on the weekends too) but I always keep my evenings free because it is important to me to be home and spending time with friends and family. Again, I am not saying

that you must do that, I am just saying that should you want to, it is possible. Furthermore, I like having extra-curriculars to do, because they keep me busy and interested, and I work best when I have a certain amount of craziness in my life (there is a critical mass of course, and it is possible to go overboard on extras and find yourself having a schizophrenic meltdown at some point. I came close last year – let it be a warning to you all!!!! Oh, and hence why these articles are ending). Your law school experience will be enriched by the other things that you do here, and most of the learning that really counts happens outside the classroom anyway. And don't forget to do at least one thing that has nothing to do with law. It is very refreshing.

So, this is goodbye, then. The Sunshine Article has been one of the most enjoyable things I've done in Law School, but it is time to move on. And, if someone feels that they are sufficiently shiny enough to take over as the Sunshine Article person, I would be more than happy to pass the hat along. Until then, bonne chance everyone, keep your chins up, and eat some chocolate for me

■



# Décodage of McGill Law

par Julien Morissette (Law IV)

**T**o the first year class, welcome to McGill Law! You are embarking on a fascinating journey. New friends, new classes and, for many, new school and new city and, for all, new jargon!

Voici donc un petit lexique en ordre alphabétique pour décoder toute cette nouveauté.

Course aux stages: La période de recrutement des bureaux d'avocats de Montréal en février-mars, pour les étudiants de 2e ou 3e année.

E-Reserves: Database run by the library in which you will find old exams for some classes and also grade distributions for law classes since 2005 (look under "OUS"). Go to: <http://ereserves.mcgill.ca>

Factum: Ou mémoire en français. Il s'agit d'un document présentant les arguments d'une partie devant un tribunal d'appel. Tous les étudiants doivent en écrire un pendant la session d'hiver de la 2e année.

OCI: On Campus Inter-

views, the recruitment process for law firms in Toronto held in the early fall of each year. The name comes from the fact that the first interviews are held, well, on campus.

OUS: Office of Undergraduate Studies, ancien nom du SAO (voir ce mot).

JICP: Judicial Institutions and Civil Procedure, a mandatory class that most people take in 3rd or 4th year.

LSA: Law Students' Association ou Association des étudiant(e)s en droit (AÉD) est l'association étudiante des étudiants du programme de B.C.L. / LL.B. Les élections annuelles ont lieu au printemps.

Methodology: Nickname of the Introductory Legal Research class and its equivalent in 2nd year.

Notice Board: Babillard électronique diffusé généralement deux fois par semaine par courriel et géré par un(e) étudiant(e) anonyme. Vous pouvez envoyer vos annonces à

[notice.law@mcgill.ca](mailto:notice.law@mcgill.ca)

PIL: Public International Law or, more rarely, Private International Law. The French acronym (DIP) is rarely used and equally ambiguous.

Pino's: Raccourci de Pino & Matteo, la cafétéria du sous-sol actuellement en rénovation.

Pubdocs: Electronic database run by students which contains course summaries (see that word). Go to: <http://pubdocs.mcgill.ca>

QL: Quicklaw, la 'grand-mère' des bases de données juridique au Canada. Elle existe toujours mais appartient aujourd'hui à l'entreprise américaine LexisNexis. Son interface est disponible en français et en anglais.

SAO: Student Affairs Office, the one-stop shop on the 4th floor of New Chancellor Day Hall for your dealings with the administration and to submit written work.

Sommaires: Résumés (plus ou moins volumineux) de cours préparés par les étudiants de la Faculté, généralement pour des examens à livres ouverts. Vous pouvez obtenir d'anciens sommaires par vos partenaires de droit, via

Notice Board (voir plus haut) ou encore sur Pubdocs (aussi plus haut).

SSMU: Student Society of McGill University, pronounced "smoo", the undergraduate student federation of McGill, of which all BCL / LLB students are members.

Stage: Période de travail sous la supervision d'un avocat nécessaire pour devenir avocat dans une province canadienne. En anglais, on parle d'articling, sauf au Québec où l'on dit généralement "the stawge".

TL: Tutorial Leader, a 3rd or 4th year student leading a small group tutorial in Methodology (see that word) or various sessions in other classes.

Thomson House: Pub des étudiants de 2e et 3e cycle très près de la Faculté (3650, rue McTavish) accessible aux étudiants en droit. Au sous-sol du même bâtiment se trouve un bon restaurant ouvert le midi en semaine.

Trans-systémie: Still working on defining that one... ■



Hugo Boss Womenswear and the Law Student Well-Being Committee invite you to an evening when great academic minds will come together to celebrate and explore style. This is a unique opportunity to prepare for recruitment, articling and other legal endeavors.

Join Jane Fairrais, Director of Boss Womenswear, for an evening of fashion education.

Monday September 17, 2007  
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Where: Boss Womenswear store at Ogilvy  
1307 Ste. Catherine Street West, Mountain Street entrance  
3rd Floor

Enjoy refreshments, hors d'oeuvres and a seminar on style, fashion and how it relates to you and your legal career.

Kindly RSVP by Wednesday, September 12, 2007

Telephone: (514) 842-7721 ext. 385

Email: [wellbeing.mcgill@gmail.com](mailto:wellbeing.mcgill@gmail.com)

## Lawmerick I

by Francie Gow, Law IV

McGill Law's Coffee House is renowned  
So when Thursday night finally came round  
The whole first year class, off we  
Went searching for coffee  
But that's not the brew that we found



# I don't know what you did last summer, mais...

by Eric Boschetti (Law III)

**E**ver wonder what really happens to law students after the graduate? This summer while working at the Career Development Office I got an inside look. I created the new Alumni Directory, and building this database changed my perspective on the Faculty and life after law school.

I know, each and every year, professors will be sure to remind us of how we are exceptional students who are going to do great things. But as with many things, it sometimes sounds like hollow rhetoric. Insecure students like me and people without grandiose ideas of their accomplishments can feel like their peers are amazing people and that they will go on to do amazing things. Sometimes we're left feeling like our career options are limited to the course aux stages and OCIs. But it's not true in the long term or in the immediate future.

While working on the CDO Alumni Directory this summer, I had the

opportunity to get a picture of what alumni are currently doing. I started off with internet searches at sites like martindale.com. I found tons of alumni from all over the country (save Saskatchewan and Manitoba), as well as in Europe and the rest of North America. As an American, it was reassuring and exciting to see that there are alumni in states other than New York, Massachusetts and California. But, I must admit, sites like this and firm websites really give you a skewed view of what things our fellow McGillians are doing. It wasn't until I sent out an e-mail to all alumni from the Faculty that I really got an honest idea of what life after law school looks like. I was in contact with the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to Malaysia; notaries; the COO of a company in Costa Rica; immigration lawyers; the Director of Legal & Constitutional Law in the Department of Justice of Nunavut; judges; in-house counsel at the world's largest

biotech company; several employees of the UN; a professor of media law in Jordan; partners in firms across the world; employees at every level of government (including the US, European, and New York governments); the owner and founder of a wellness company; the legal director for a company that promotes and produces U2 and Madonna's world tours; etc, etc, etc! You get the idea. After law school, you really can do anything, and people do it. What's even crazier is that communications were sent back and forth between the Netherlands, China, Argentina, Florida, Australia, Mexico, Luxembourg, Hong Kong, and the list goes on. (And, in case you were verwundert, nos diplômés son moy capacitado to answer questions in multi lingue.) Better still, alumni are not only doing remarkable things professionally; they also find time to be involved in exciting volunteer and charitable work (read: the Canadian Wind Energy Association, the Boy Scouts, les Filles d'action, IPIC, governors of school boards, chairs of political commissions, and etc. again). Les diplômés de la faculté travaillent dans presque tous les do-

maines imaginables. Les listes ci-dessus n'ont pas comme but de vous impressionner ; c'est simplement pour montrer que des personnes ordinaires comme nous tous font des choses incroyables. En plus, ils sont presque tous prêts à vous raconter des anecdotes personnelles, à répondre à vos questions et à s'impliquer auprès des programmes florissants du CDO. Le CDO a de plus en plus de ressources pour vous aider à trouver votre travail idéal grâce aux efforts concertés de nos anciens et le CDO. Pour citer les commentaires d'une diplômée « McGill students need to come to Ontario...all the law students from other schools are pretty weak...in my opinion...go McGill!! » Donc, il est évident que nos diplômés sont fiers de leur alma mater et aussi qu'ils veulent réduire le stress lié à l'incertitude de nos vies post-facultaires. Quelques uns souhaitent aussi aider en participant à des discours et des tables rondes. Donc si vous ou votre groupe cherche un conférencier pour un événement, le CDO offre des outils pour les trouver. On sait que les réseaux de certains groupes comme The Women's Caucus and HRWG sont assez bien établis, mais il y a



une opportunité où vous pouvez élargir ces networks et les vôtres aussi.

Il était tellement rafraichissant de voir même un petit échantillon des domaines où nos gradués travaillent aujourd'hui. Nous avons encouragé les gradués qui travaillent dans un secteur non-juridique ou pas stricte-

ment juridique de partager leurs coordonnées avec nous. Les réponses d'avocats en pratique privée et les réponses des personnes qui ne pratiquent pas le droit de façon traditionnelle était presque moitié-moitié. Donc, si votre cœur vous dirige soit vers le barreau soit vers une voie différente, allez-y ; il est possible

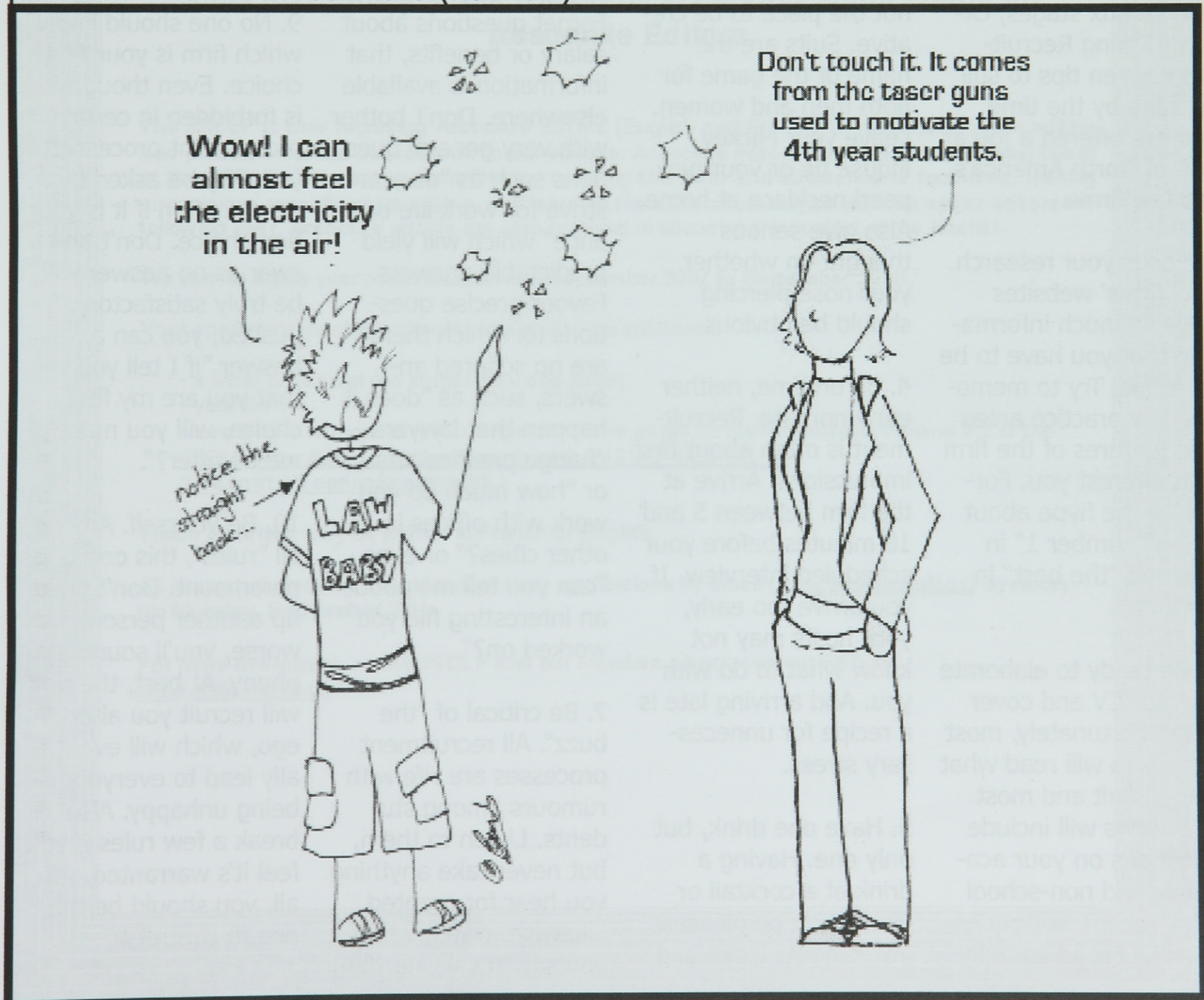
car il y a de maintes personnes qui l'ont déjà fait et veulent vous aider à le faire aussi.

Donc, ce septembre et durant l'année scolaire, ne laissez pas le stress et le doute de soi-même après une entrevue désastreux vous propulser dans un abysse de misère. Les défis comme ça sont normaux, et les divers

exemples de nos gradués peuvent vous rassurer. Et, pour le prouver, nous allons essayer d'avoir un « Success Stories » chaque mois pour vous montrer des cheminements carrières intéressants des diplômé(e)s de la faculté ■

## Les Aventures du Capitaine Corporate America

par Laurence Bich-Carriere (Law IV)





# OCI Doesn't Have To Stand For "Ohhh Crap, Interviews!"

by Julien Morissette (Law IV)

September means the beginning of recruitment season. Many second year students are currently sweating over Toronto OCIs. Later in the year will come other equally memorable events: East-West, New York, Course aux stages, Ottawa Spring Recruitment... Ten tips to still be sane by the time you are offered a job at one of North America's top law firms.

1. Focus your research. Law firms' websites have so much information that you have to be selective. Try to memorize key practice areas and features of the firm that interest you. Forget all the hype about being "number 1" in this and "the best" in that.

2. Be ready to elaborate on your CV and cover letter. Fortunately, most recruiters will read what you submit and most interviews will include questions on your academic and non-school track record, with questions as broad as "why

law?" and as narrow as "why did you take International Maritime Conventions?". Google yourself and be ready to elaborate on anything that comes up.

3. Dress conservatively. Sorry, but Bay Street is not the place to be creative. Suits are the name of the game for both men and women. Leave your Mickey Mouse tie or your pink pearl necklace at home. Also give serious thought on whether your nose piercing should be obvious.

4. Be on time, neither early nor late. Recruitment is often about first impressions. Arrive at the firm between 5 and 10 minutes before your scheduled interview. If you arrive too early, your hosts may not know what to do with you. And arriving late is a recipe for unnecessary stress.

5. Have one drink, but only one. Having a drink at a cocktail or dinner can be pleasant and it never looks bad

to accept a drink. But being tipsy or drunk is a bad idea. Remember that not having any alcohol is always acceptable. And steer clear from carbonated drinks – unless you want to burp during an interview – and coloured ones – it's easier to recover from spilled white wine than spilled red wine.

6. Ask questions, but not any question. Make the most of your opportunity to ask questions. Forget questions about salary or benefits, that information is available elsewhere. Don't bother with very general questions such as "do you strive for work-life balance" which will yield predictable answers. Favour precise questions for which there are no scripted answers, such as "does it happen that lawyers change practice areas?" or "how much do you work with offices in other cities?" or even "can you tell me about an interesting file you worked on?".

7. Be critical of "the buzz". All recruitment processes are rife with rumours among students. Listen to them, but never take anything you hear for granted. Likewise, watch what you say. It's easier than

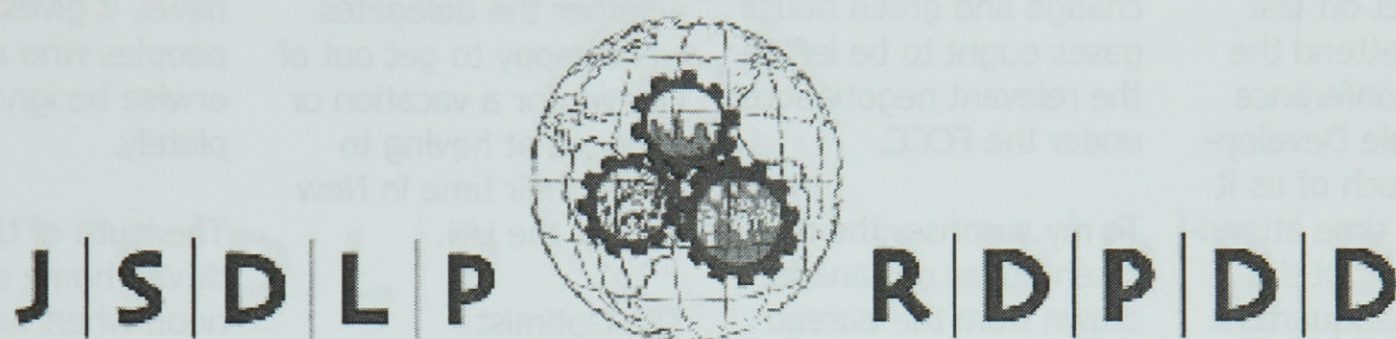
you think to involuntarily spread wrong or biased information.

8. Keep your eyes open. Because open ears aren't enough. Watch the recruiter's body language. Do they look tired? How do they react to questions? If you visit the firm's office, are there people running everywhere? Messy files all over the place? Sometimes, the physical environment says it all.

9. No one should know which firm is your first choice. Even though it is forbidden in certain recruitment processes, you may be asked by a nervous firm if it is your first choice. Don't answer as no answer will be truly satisfactory. If pushed, you can always answer "if I tell you that you are my first choice, will you make me an offer?".

10. Be yourself. Among all "rules", this one is paramount. Don't build up another persona. At worse, you'll sound phony. At best, the firm will recruit you alter ego, which will eventually lead to everyone being unhappy. Also break a few rules if you feel it's warranted. After all, you should be the one in control ■





**The McGill International Journal for Sustainable Development  
Law and Policy (JSDLP) is now accepting applications for  
Associate Editors**

The JSDLP is now recruiting Associate Editors (English and French) to participate in the editing and production of the publication's fourth volume. Associate editors form the junior editorial board of the JSDLP. They are responsible for verifying the form and substance of footnotes, making suggestions regarding text editing, and learning the skills necessary to work as senior editors the following year. Associate editors are also involved in choosing the content of the journal.

We ask for a one year commitment, from September 2007 to September 2008.

Your application package should consist of three elements:

- a letter of interest (no longer than one page)
- your CV
- a reflective commentary (no longer than one page) on the foreword to Volume 2:2 of the JSDLP ([http://jsdlp.mcgill.ca/download/2-2/JSDLP-RDPDD\\_2-2\\_Atagattu\\_TorringSanders.pdf](http://jsdlp.mcgill.ca/download/2-2/JSDLP-RDPDD_2-2_Atagattu_TorringSanders.pdf).)

These materials may be written in French or English.

All interested students should submit their applications by email ([jsdlp.law@mcgill.ca](mailto:jsdlp.law@mcgill.ca)) by noon on Monday, September 24th.

For more information on the JSDLP and our mandate please see our website:  
[www.jsdlp.mcgill.ca](http://www.jsdlp.mcgill.ca).



# The UN does development

by Julia Kennedy (Law II)

Four McGill law students set off last May to attend the annual UN Conference on Sustainable Development. For each of us it was the first time attending a UN event at the New York headquarters. Eager though we all were, the experience brought each of us to reflect on the effectiveness of the UN generally and on what role it might actually play in future development efforts.

## The Pessimist

A pessimist might say that the entire event was a waste of time. Member countries had sent delegates who seemed to do nothing but make generic statements about what their country was doing for sustainable development during plenary sessions in which the Chair had asked for comments on a specific draft-negotiating document.

Watching one such session on the theme of climate change, a notable pattern began to develop. The statements from developed countries, including Canada, were largely concerned with confirming what the negotiations should not be about: the mechanisms

for dealing with climate change and green house gases ought to be left to the relevant negotiations under the FCCC.

To my surprise, the representatives of Canada, drawn from the bureaucracy of various Ministries and departments of the Federal government, arranged to meet with representatives of Canadian NGOs during the first few days of the CSD. This brief discussion was most illuminating.

In response to the question of what their goal was for CSD-15, a member of the negotiating team snickered, "To survive." No further reply was offered by any of the six delegates present. When asked what Canada's position on sustainable development was, we were told "That sustainable development is good, not just for us, but for the rest of the world too." A more vacuous, generic, politically correct statement I could not imagine.

Holding this NGO-government meeting stood in odd contrast to their unwillingness to substantively answer any questions and their lack of questions for the NGOs

present. Overall, the impression was that that there would be little good faith effort to negotiate and address issues by Canada. I was torn between wondering whether the delegates were happy to get out of Ottawa for a vacation or annoyed at having to waste their time in New York at the UN.

## The Optimist

Ok, so the public negotiation sessions weren't particularly inspiring, but there were many side events organized by and for members of civil society. Presenters shared their experiences, results, questions and efforts to apply the principle of sustainable development in a concrete way at home. These projects ranged from urban waterway reclamation in NYC to wind farms in rural India, from the health affects of wood cook fires to that of the Chernobyl nuclear meltdown. It was inspirational to learn of such diverse efforts having real world impacts upon communities around the world, with or without the support of their governments.

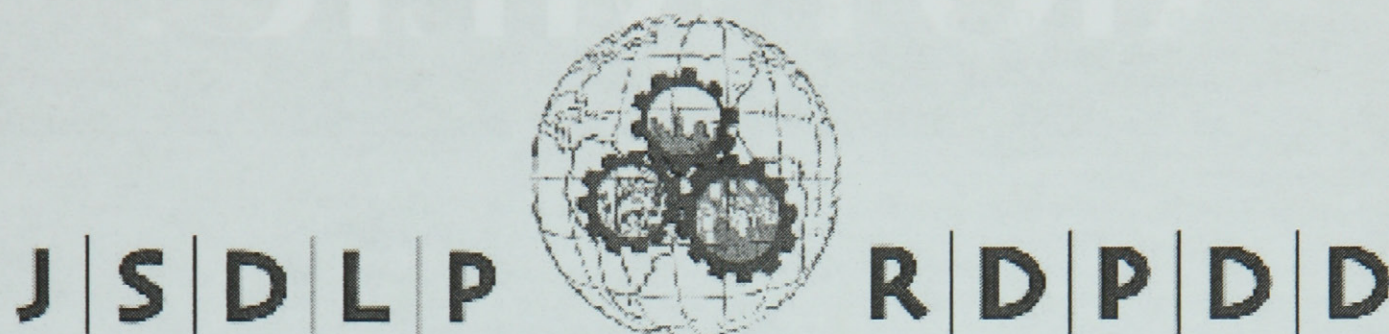
Touring around the UN building gave a real sense of history: that this institution represented the hopes of many for a more peaceful world. And it has had

many successes, not the least of which is the provision of a forum for the world to come together and try to find common ground. Although the institution may have its flaws, it gives voice to peoples who might otherwise be ignored completely.

The truth of this was driven home one afternoon when we accidentally attended a meeting of the UN Peacebuilding Commission. The UN High Commission of Refugees was there to report on the status of refugees in Chad and Sudan. For the first time, members of a panel sounded not just like they were interested in what they were doing but were impassioned by their work. Members had actually visited the affected area to better plan and manage resources. Impact was measured in thousands of lives and tons of aid. Here at last was the UN I had imagined.

Leaving the UN after our brief visit, I could not say that the Commission on Sustainable Development would accomplish anything. I did feel certain, however, that in amongst the posturing and politics, real work was getting done and that a few believers still survived ■





**La Revue internationale de droit et politique du développement durable de McGill (RDPDD) accepte maintenant les candidatures pour la position de rédacteur(e) associé(e)**

La RDPDD cherche à recruter des rédacteurs associés (français et anglais) pour la publication du Volume 4. Les rédacteurs associés constituent le comité junior de rédaction. Ils sont responsables pour la vérification des notes de bas page (forme et substance), participent à la révision des articles et acquièrent les compétences nécessaires pour devenir rédacteurs seniors l'année suivante. Les rédacteurs associés français auront un rôle important au cours des prochaines années puisque la RDPDD cherche activement à accroître le nombre de soumissions d'articles en français.

L'engagement demandé est d'une année, de septembre 2007 à septembre 2008.

Votre application devrait inclure les documents suivants:

- une lettre d'intérêt (longueur maximale d'une page)
- votre C.V.
- un commentaire ou une réponse à l'avant-propos du Volume 2:2 de la RDPDD :  
([http://jsdlp.mcgill.ca/downloads/d/2-2/JSDLP-RDPDD-2-2\\_Ata.pattu-Toering-Sandersa.pdf](http://jsdlp.mcgill.ca/downloads/d/2-2/JSDLP-RDPDD-2-2_Ata.pattu-Toering-Sandersa.pdf))

L'application peut être faite en français ou anglais.

Tous les étudiants intéressés devront soumettre leur candidature par courriel ([jsdlp.law@mcgill.ca](mailto:jsdlp.law@mcgill.ca)) avant le **lundi 24 septembre à 12h00**

Pour de plus amples informations sur la RDPDD, veuillez visiter notre site internet: [www.jsdlp.mcgill.ca](http://www.jsdlp.mcgill.ca).



# GOT MILIC?



**Volunteering at the McGill Legal Information Clinic is *clinically* proven to brighten your smile and reduce your risk of failing the bar exam!**



# Be a Part the Revolution

by Noah Boudreau, Director of Communications - McGill Legal Information Clinic

In a recent Maclean's magazine interview, ex-Bay Street Lawyer Philip Slayton affirmed that "...the average person has no real access to lawyers, to the legal system, to justice." He noted that "It's all right if you're very poor and have the kind of problem that legal aid will help you with, but most Canadians have middle-class incomes and simply can't afford to hire a lawyer."

Although Slayton's grim assessment of Canada's legal profession was rejected as a gross over-generalization by the Canadian Bar Association and numerous legal commentators, there is no denying that rising legal costs have made the legal system more inaccessible to more and more people. Canada's chief justice, Beverly McLachlin, who also dismissed Slayton's comments as an "exaggeration," nonetheless admitted in a speech to the Canadian Bar Association that the justice system's inaccessibility

is leading to an increasing number of litigants showing up in court without lawyers – a reality which is resulting in unnecessary delays and missed procedural opportunities in already lengthy and complicated trials.

In an August 8th interview with CanWest News Service, now retired Quebec Superior Court Justice John Gomery confirmed that the problem is one of costs. He stressed that the rising costs of hiring a lawyer has meant that not only the poor, but also the middle class are choosing to represent themselves in court because they cannot afford legal fees and don't qualify for legal aid. "I don't think the legal profession is giving the proper attention to the problem and it's suicidal, the direction that we're going now," says Gomery. According to a survey published two years ago in Canadian Lawyer magazine, the average hourly rate for a lawyer with 10 years experience is from

\$170 to \$260. It was further estimated that the average rate for a contested divorce in 2005 was \$8,505 and that it cost an average of \$20,830 to go to court for two days in a civil trial. While these figures vary across the country, they provide a bleak reminder of just how expensive justice can be.

Although the Government of Québec recently agreed to increase the eligibility thresholds for legal aid, which is the level of income below which a person is eligible to receive legal services free of charge or with a contribution in order to take or respond to legal action, the threshold continues to ignore the ever-growing middle class. For instance, in order for a single person to qualify for legal aid, his or her annual income cannot exceed \$10,504 – a threshold which is due to increase by 34% by 2010, but which nonetheless excludes far more people than what most would consider the "middle class." Surely the Government of Québec cannot expect those people whom they consider below the poverty line, set for a single person at just over

\$20,000 in 2005 by Statistics Canada, to be able to afford a lawyer charging more than \$150 an hour. Unfortunately, this is the harsh reality facing a growing number of Canadians. So what are all these people to do?

At the McGill Legal Information Clinic volunteer law students have been providing much needed free legal information for over 34 years to the growing number of people who do not qualify for legal aid and cannot afford a lawyer. Although the Québec Bar Act restricts law students from providing legal advice or representing clients, the Clinic does offer clients information on the legal issues affecting them as well as any procedural information they might require. The Clinic offers services to the community at large, but the focus is on providing marginalized groups with the legal information they might not otherwise have access to. Dealing with over 4000 cases a year, the Clinic strives to ensure that the "average" person does have access to justice even if they might not have access to a lawyer or to legal aid.

It remains up to



judges, lawyers and governments to develop practical and effective solutions to this problem, the Clinic remains committed, at the very least, to offset the "alarming trend" identified by Justice Gomery, which he says is putting the justice system out of reach for everyone but the well off.

Referring to the current state of Canada's legal profession Slayton noted in his interview with Maclean's, "It's as if somebody tried to pass a law that said you can't vote in a federal election unless you have an income of \$100,000 or more. Well, there would be a revolution."

At the Clinic we are proud to be a part of the "revolution" seeking to ensure access to justice for all those in our community.

\*\*For more information on the McGill Legal Information Clinic or how to become a volunteer please contact

hr.mlic@mail.mcgill.ca or visit

www.mlic.mcgill.ca



## Be a Rights defender!

by Alison Glaser, Director Student Advocacy

What is Student Advocacy?

Part of the McGill Legal Information Clinic, Student Advocacy provides advice and representation to McGill students accused of an academic or non-academic disciplinary offence or who are involved in a dispute with the University or a representative of the University. Advocates also facilitate discussion, negotiation, and informal dispute resolution between McGill students, University officials, and administrators.

Who should sign up? We are looking for people who are patient, who are good with people, who like pleading and preparing cases, and who like communicating both in writing and verbally.

Ok, but what will I have to do? Student Advocates must attend the training. Then, you will be asked to take on cases. There are generally three kinds of cases that we do:

1) Disciplinary cases. By far these are the most common things we deal with. Generally, these are cases where the student is accused of plagiarism or cheating, but they can also (much more rarely) be other things like misrepresentation of facts, disruption, harassment, etc. Of these types of cases, there are three types of hearings that you can participate in:

a. Article 49 Interviews: the advocate's bread and butter. Most of the cases we do are these Semi-formal interviews. They are between the Disciplinary Officer (usually the Associate Dean of each faculty) and the student. The Advocate's job is mostly to help the student beforehand, make sure the procedure goes properly, and make some arguments on behalf of the student.

ally pleads the client's case, examines and cross-examines witnesses, as well as preparing the client and the evidence.

c. University Appeals Committee. These hearings are extremely rare. They involve preparing a written statement or appeal, pleading, and may include some witness examination as well.

2) Grievance cases. Students have rights under the Charter of Students' Rights. Sometimes, students believe these rights have been violated. When that happens, they can appeal to the Committee on Student Grievances. Here is what Advocates do in these cases:

a. Informal Dispute Resolution. Under the Grievance Code, students are required to try and resolve their conflict informally. Most conflicts do get resolved without a formal Grievance, and Advocates can help by helping with negotiation and mediation between relevant parties.

b. Factum writing. If the informal route does not work, then a formal Grievance can be filed. Advocates can help students write their factum explaining



what has happened.

c. Pleading. At a Grievance, the Advocate usually does the case preparation, the pleading, and the examining and cross-examining of witnesses. It is a lot of work, but very rewarding!

3) Judicial Board cases. These are cases involving disputes with the Student's Society of McGill University. Advocates represent both sides in these cases, and help write facta, plead the case, and examine witnesses.

But seriously, is this going to take over my life?

Not if you don't want it to! Being an Advocate involves as little as a 4 hour per semester commitment, though if you want you can do more! There are no required office hours, it works on a case by case basis, so you can fit it in your schedule. Some cases, obviously, involve more of a time commitment than other (like an art. 49 interview vs. a Grievance), but you can let your senior Advocate know what you prefer. However, when you are on a case, we expect you to be committed to it and do your best. Remember, while this is a

bit of fun volunteer work and pleading experience for you, for your clients it is their entire academic future that is on the line.

Who runs the clinic? The clinic is run by the Director and 4 Senior Advocates. They have regular office hours at the clinic and will see the clients first. Then they will assign each client to an Advocate to work on the case. That means that you are never alone! There is always a Senior Advocate assigned to each case if you have questions, and of course the Director is happy to

help you at any time. This year the Director is Alison Glaser and the Senior Advocates are Roberto Ghignone, Joanna Grossman, Marie-Andrée Larouche, and James Newman.

Questions? Want more info?

You can check out our website at [www.advocacy.mcgill.ca](http://www.advocacy.mcgill.ca) or you can contact the Director or one of the Senior Advocates, at [advocacy.law@mcgill.ca](mailto:advocacy.law@mcgill.ca) or 514-398-4384 ■

We need your help to fill these pages! Don't be shy, send us your art, poetry, raves and rants, events, games summaries, thoughts and anything else....

So, write for the Quid, cause you know you want to!!!



## The McGill Health Law Publication La Publication en droit de la santé de McGill

By Josh Wilner (Law III), Editor-in-Chief, MHLP/PDSM

The *McGill Health Law Publication* (MHLP) / *Publication en droit de la santé de McGill* (PDSM) is a new, open-access, peer-reviewed journal founded and run by students at McGill University's Faculty of Law. After the successful launch of our inaugural issue, published in April 2007 and available online at our new website, [www.mhlp.mcgill.ca](http://www.mhlp.mcgill.ca), we are now hard at work on our second issue.

There are opportunities for English and French first and upper-year students to join our editorial and management teams for the 2007-2008 academic year. Cette année, la PDSM cherche tout particulièrement à recruter des élèves francophones remarquables pour solidifier son équipe de rédaction française. Des auteurs francophones de renom ont accepté de contribuer au second volume de la Publication. Les étudiants de langue française sont fortement encouragés à faire application.

The MHLP provides student editors with a wealth of opportunities for involvement in the exciting area of health law. Students will have the opportunity to edit articles by renowned academics in the field, contribute research for our website, and attend educational workshops and panels hosted at the Faculty.

Dès cet automne, la PDSM se penchera sur la rédaction de sa constitution officielle. Participer à cette initiative étudiante florissante est une opportunité sans pareil d'aider à mettre en place les fondements d'une institution de marque durable à la Faculté. Through your participation in the MHLP you will have a voice in the governance of this student-run journal.

### Application Information

The MHLP has the following positions available for 2007-2008:

- Executive Editor
- English and French Editor
- Executive Managing Editor. Students with grant writing and/or fundraising experience are encouraged to apply.
- Managing Editor
- Web Editor. Students with knowledge of Dreamweaver, Frontpage, and Photoshop, comprehension of HTML, CSS and PHP languages, and/or an ability to manage MySQL databases are encouraged to apply.

To apply for a position with the MHLP, please submit an application in English or French to the MHLP mailbox (labelled "Health Law Pub") located at 3661 Peel by Monday, September 24, 2007 at 17:00.

Applications should include:

1. A 1-2 page letter stating why you are interested in the MHLP, what you feel you will be able to contribute to the team, and what position(s) you are interested in and why. This letter will be considered a writing sample.
2. Curriculum Vitae (maximum 2 pages).
3. A brief analysis of any article published in the first issue of the MHLP, available at [www.mhlp.mcgill.ca](http://www.mhlp.mcgill.ca).

Students will be contacted for a brief interview shortly thereafter. Please note that current MHLP members are requested to re-apply.

If you have any questions regarding the application process or requirements, please visit our website at [www.mhlp.mcgill.ca](http://www.mhlp.mcgill.ca), contact our Executive Managing Editor, Chelsea Clogg, at [chelsea.clogg@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:chelsea.clogg@mail.mcgill.ca), and come speak with us at Chiba Day on Wednesday September 19.

**[www.mhlp.mcgill.ca](http://www.mhlp.mcgill.ca)**



# LAW STUDENTS UNITE FOR ACCESS TO JUSTICE

by Andrew Biteen (Law III),  
Rachel Doran (Law II),  
Andrée-Anne Bouchard-Desbiens (UQAM Law II)

At the onset of law school, many students face a challenging paradox. Recapturing the idealism of youth, the fledgling law student recognizes injustice and desires to overcome it. Legal education – offering on-ramps to avenues of influence – is entered into promisingly. Wide-eyed and energetic, the new law student fittingly vows to live up to their application essay's promises to "help people" and "make the world a better place." However, as Dean Kasirer pointed out on my first day of orientation, the vast majority of graduates end up complacently doing the same jobs towards the same ends. The challenge issued by the Dean was to overcome this complacency, to allow legal education to reinforce our aspirations to build a more accessible and just world. As Rick Mercer recently found

out, it's not that Canadians aren't up for a challenge; it's simply that most of us are balancing several challenges already, not the least of which is law school itself. Ultimately, as pressure mounts, the only viable option seems to be to spend three and a half years feeling like the god Janus, wallowing in half-steps while trying to have it both ways.

Keeping this in mind, law students from the faculties of law at the University of Montreal, the University of Quebec at Montreal, and McGill University have united in a new coalition to increase awareness of problems with access to justice in Montreal. The new coalition, "Uni-Acces," aims to create a space for conversation about the divide between the legal system and the daily experience of most Quebecers and to serve as a support net-

work for law students already working on reforms to these problems at all three law faculties in Montreal. Defined broadly, access to justice includes problems big and small: from groups' experiences of systematic discrimination and marginalization to the long wait times in court; from problems of access to post-secondary and legal education to the difficulty of pursuing legal careers in public service.

Uni-Acces will be holding its launch event at the Sherbrooke pavilion of UQAM (200 Sherbrooke St. W.) at 6pm on Wednesday, September 12th. Speakers include Quebec's Chief Justice Michel Robert, Me. Michel Doyon, the head of the Barreau de Quebec, Justice Louise Otis, creator of the conciliation program in the Quebec court system, and Professeur Pierre Noreau, Quebec's fore-

most legal sociologist. The speakers will share their perspectives on the current challenges in accessing justice in Quebec and the panel will be followed by a reception meant to encourage connections between students and student-groups from different faculties.

The launch event will be followed by a series of "Mardis de la Justice," where any student group will be welcome to host an informal gathering on a specific topic within the broad category of accessibility. The first Mardi de la Justice will take place on October 2nd at

It will be a discussion on "legal careers and public service" and will feature lawyers practising in diverse fields. Any group interested in organizing a future Mardi de la Justice and anyone interested in more information should e-mail [uni.acces@gmail.com](mailto:uni.acces@gmail.com)

■



# Welcome from the Well-being Committee

By Natalie Haras (Law III) and Aryana Rousseau (Law III)

The seasons are shifting; we're starting a new school year; and the Student Well-Being Committee is ready to support your physical, mental and emotional health. Whether you're starting or returning to law school, we want to welcome you.

Chairing the Committee this year are third-year students Aryana Rousseau and Natalie Haras. Aryana hails from Prince Edward Island and loves cycling and making homemade granola. Natalie grew up in Niagara, Ontario and enjoys yoga, running on the mountain and lots of tea, fresh produce and dark chocolate to keep her happy and healthy. We both look forward to helping make this a very positive year at the faculty.

We'd like to share our top well-being tips for this back to school season.

1. Get out of your mind and into your body: We find that exercise is the best medicine for most ailments. Whether you are sad, angry, stressed, frustrated, lonely or worried, exercise will make you feel better. The benefits of exercise can be felt long-term; other comforts, such as over-indulging in food, drugs or alcohol make you feel better temporarily but leave you feeling worse the next day. By making exercise a regular and non-negotiable part of your routine, you'll work better and think more clearly.

2. Eat well and eat regularly. Try to eat every

3 to 4 hours because, in the long run, you'll eat less and make better food choices. Always eat protein with your carbohydrates. This will give you energy and keep you slim. When you eat carbs alone, you experience a "sugar high" followed by a crash. When you crash, your body reacts by producing insulin and going into a "fat-storage" mode. If you have protein with your carbs, your blood sugar levels stay more constant, giving you more energy, and your body stays in "fat-burning" mode.

3. Have fun. We find that having a "school-work free" day every week gives our brains a rest and creates time to do things we like. So go for a bike ride, visit a museum, learn to make martinis, read a magazine... remember that life doesn't stop just because you're at law school.

4. Be your own best friend. Do you mentally berate yourself for not

being smart enough, slim enough or good enough? Do you always tell yourself that you have a millions things to do and no time to do them? Negative self-talk is debilitating and can turn into a self-fulfilling prophecy. If you truly believe that you will fail, then you probably will. The opposite is also true. Pay attention to your self-talk and try to limit the tendency to compare yourself to others.

5. Keep your perspective. Spend time with people who lift you up and try to avoid those that make you feel bad. Make time for friends and family and be open to asking for help. If you've noticed that your mood is low or that you're feeling distressed, see your doctor or consider talk therapy. Remember that you're not alone.

We hope that these tips are helpful and that you'll join in on the activities we have planned for this coming year ■

*Wash out this tired notion that the best is yet to come.*

*- Dave Matthews*





# The Square

## *Of sub-prime and sub-optimals*

by Nick Dodd (Law III)

A few short days ago I found myself struck into amazed immobility by the site of a particular advertisement on the Berri métro platform. Now I know what many of you are thinking, that Nick is prone to such attacks, the guy probably spends half his time marveling at the daily menu in Pino's (which, I must say by the way of sidenote, I miss (for those of you new to this here institution, Pino's is the fine dining establishment located on OCDH's lowest floor that is currently in the process of an exciting expansion) despite how much I hated the fact that a morning visit would leave your clothes smelling like you'd taken a half-hour bath in bacon grease – I guess you don't know what you've got 'till it's gone). However, more than being some exciting new shade of the colour orange (also a thing that will leave me dazed with wonder) this advert was something to which I took particular offense, to the point of being rather darkly amused (bemused?). Banque Laurentienne's current promotion campaign for mortgages, conveyed by

posters featuring children holding toy keys and claiming things like "Je suis capable!", cannot be more insensitive to the housing disaster currently gripping the United States and, by extension, world financial markets, the so-called "sub-prime mortgage crisis".

Why do I find these posters so incredibly ignorant and offensive? Because the message they are selling is that mortgages are no big deal, that the responsibility they involve is so miniscule that a 7-year old is capable of handling it, that, in essence, if you cannot take-on a mortgage you are the moral, financial and intellectual equivalent of a pre-schooler. Whatever the wisdom of this ad campaign prior to the events of the last few months (and I was argue that it was pretty damn thin to begin with), considering the unethical, predatory and downright vicious actions of mortgage brokers in the United States, I think it would have been wise for Banque Laurentienne to take a good look at the message it was sending and, maybe, just maybe, re-think it.

The victims of the sub-prime mortgage scandal are exactly that – victims of unscrupulous mortgage brokers, victims of advertising campaigns exactly like this one (and let us not forget, advertising happens because it works, and people put a lot of time, and money, and empirical data analysis into making sure it works), victims of a system where money must be continually leveraged lest the whole thing collapse like the house of cards that it actually is. And while the media waxes and wanes about the poor markets, millions (literally – millions) of people scramble to find somewhere to live while the wealth is concentrated into fewer and fewer hands (again, literally – makes you want to read Marx again, don't it).

Now I imagine many of you have dismissed me already, for not understanding the sound economic principles that this is all explained by, or for questioning the fault of these "clearly" irresponsible men and women (wow – millions of irresponsible people, all of whom are of "lesser" means – makes you wonder exactly who the "reasonable person" is) who "should've known" what they were signing on to. In response (though only the begin-

nings of a response) I note how shouldering the faceless masses with the blame dovetails nicely with Professor Baker's explanation, in Canadian Legal History, of how important the individualization of responsibility was to protecting the early industrialists from lawsuits brought by employees injured on the job – blaming the now homeless individuals here is a perfect way of ignoring the actions of others, and the systemic reasons for why this all happened.

Mock all of this if you will, but I would be more than happy to chat (amicably, honest) with any staunch free-market economists, or anyone else for that matter, who feels that what has happened is anything but proof of the fundamental flaws of today's global capital market, an uncontrolled international speculation market that bring Las Vegas style gambling to a whole new level of human cost (and I realize I'm stacking the deck with my preconceptions here, but I never claimed to be objective, only to be willing to challenge my subjectivity). And with that, I think I'll go back to stuffing my scarce monetary reserves under my mattress, and I will wish you all a good, fully sheltered in house and home, day

■



# Reasonable Accommodation in Quebec

by Lindsay Tina Cheong (Law III)

**H**ave you heard the news? The Charest government officially mandated a special Commission to investigate reasonable accommodation practices in Quebec. Well, that was the original mandate. The Bouchard-Taylor Commission, comprised of Professor Gerard Bouchard and Professor Charles Taylor made public their consultation document, which can be read at [www.accommodements.qc.ca](http://www.accommodements.qc.ca), before their province-wide, traveling consultation with residents in Quebec who wish to come out and voice their opinions about reasonable accommodation (and so much more).

Take a look at the document. As the official source of information for citizens prior to the consultation meetings,

I am disturbed that it does not address the needs, experiences and concerns of the cultural, religious and ethnic communities in Quebec who are disproportionately (and even entirely) beneficiaries of reasonable accommodation measures.

Check out the co-chairs and the list of the advisory committee: they are all academics! There isn't a single community member (read: from the cultural-religious-ethnic communities who stand to benefit from reasonable accommodation measures, or from the education or labour sectors, for example, where reasonable accommodation is given life everyday) in sight.

In fact, this document and its' authors shift and distort the "de-

bate" on reasonable accommodation to the "question of the integration of immigrants."

(SIDE NOTE: are we debating the validity of a legal doctrine that seeks to protect minority rights and combat discrimination in our society?)

Ok, time out: what does the protection of minority rights in Quebec have to do with the integration of immigrants? What's the link? Are Muslim people not integrated/integrated enough into Quebec society when they ask not to have pork at the cabane-à-sucre? Are Hasidic Jews not integrated/integrated enough into Quebec society when they ask their neighbouring YMCA to frost their windows, but pay for it themselves, so as to block the view of women and men doing exercise in their aerobics gear?

I fear the answer that either the Bouchard-Taylor Commission is

looking for from the majority in Quebec (read: the white French population) or wishes to propagate as the "democratic voice of Quebec" is NO. "Quebec" is not satisfied, and "those people" will have to do more.

Yet, how telling is it that when someone walks into a restaurant and asks that the cook wash their pan because of a peanut allergy, or when s/he just doesn't want pickles on their hamburger, or when a parent decides to talk to their naked-happy neighbour, no one on the Bouchard-Taylor Commission, or maybe even you, would even flinch. So why does the Bouchard-Taylor Commission and the white French majority in Quebec care so much about "immigrants," especially those who are part of religious communities?

■

**You've got an opinion? We want to hear it!**  
**Write an article for the Quid Novi! Deadline is thursdays at 5pm.**  
**Send your two cents to [quid.law@mcgill.ca](mailto:quid.law@mcgill.ca)**



# Où est le micro-ondes ?

par Julien Morissette (Law IV)

Parce que parfois, vivre d'amour, d'eau clair et de recueils juridiques n'est pas suffisant. Voici donc le guide pratico-pratique de la vie à la Faculté...

**Baby-foot :** Rien de mieux pour se divertir. En descendant l'escalier de Old Chancellor Day Hall menant au sous-sol, entrez dans le salon des étudiants devant vous, puis dirigez-vous dans l'alcôve à gauche. Et après tout, le droit dans cette province est souvent une histoire de bleus contre rouges...

**Café :** Parce que parfois, la bonne volonté ne suffit pas. La cafétéria du sous-sol étant en rénovation, le café le plus près se trouve à Thomson House (3650, rue McTavish). Tant qu'à faire, essayez leurs biscuits, ils ne sont pas chers et très bons. Pour les plus gourmands, il y a aussi des douceurs comme le very berry square.

**Distributrices :** Pour une dose de caféine froide ou encore ce gras solidifié connu sous l'euphémisme de 'croustilles'. Au sous-sol de Old Chancellor Day Hall, à côté de l'espace en rénovation. Si vous y passez à la bonne heure,

vous pourrez écouter de la musique moderne telle le Concerto pour deux perceuses et un marteau en si mineur.

**Miam :** Encore faim? Le vrai repas de midi le plus proche se trouve au sous-sol de Thomson House. Le menu change quotidiennement, presque tous les employés sont des étudiants, les prix sont doux et incluent les taxes. Pour une ambiance plus capitaliste, plus prévisible, aux heures plus longues et à la cuisine sans imagination, il y a aussi le Subway – dans un sous-sol lui aussi, au coin des rues Stanley et Docteur-Penfield, juste en face de la Faculté. Pour les plus sportifs, il y a une grande cafétéria au centre universitaire, connu sous le nom de 'Shatner Building', sur la droite en descendant la rue McTavish.

**Micro-ondes :** Histoire de réchauffer le café ou le souper de la veille. Divers modèles sont disponibles au sous-sol de New Chancellor Day Hall. Le chauffage est inclus, mais pas le ménage, alors préparez-vous à un amalgame marron étrange de sauce to-

mate, curry, fromage, etc. qui heureusement n'affecte pas le goût de votre sauce tomate, curry, fromage, etc.

**Photocopies :** Votre cours PRIC-101, sachant que 'PRIC' veut dire 'processus inutilement compliqué'. Les seules photocopieuses accessibles aux étudiants sont dans la bibliothèque. Pour en faire, il faut acheter une carte magnétique dans une machine se trouvant à l'extérieur de la bibliothèque, dans le couloir reliant la bibliothèque à l'atrium. Une fois achetée, la carte doit être chargée. La machine ne prend pas de pièces en dessous de 1\$. Gardez assez d'argent dessus pour pouvoir faire la photocopie urgente, mais pas suffisamment pour pousser des jurons le jour où elle sera démagnétisée. Pour le volume, allez chez Copie Nova (au coin des rues Peel et Sherbrooke), c'est beaucoup moins cher.

**Guichet automatique :** Qui a dit que droit et lucre vont de paire? Les vrais guichets les plus près sont au centre universitaire (voir plus haut). Autrement, les rues Sherbrooke et Peel (en bas de la colline) ne manquent pas de banques...

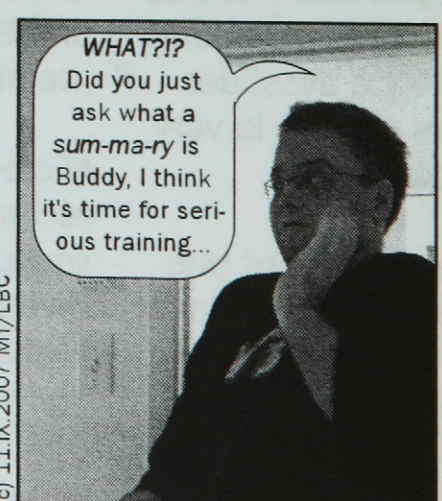
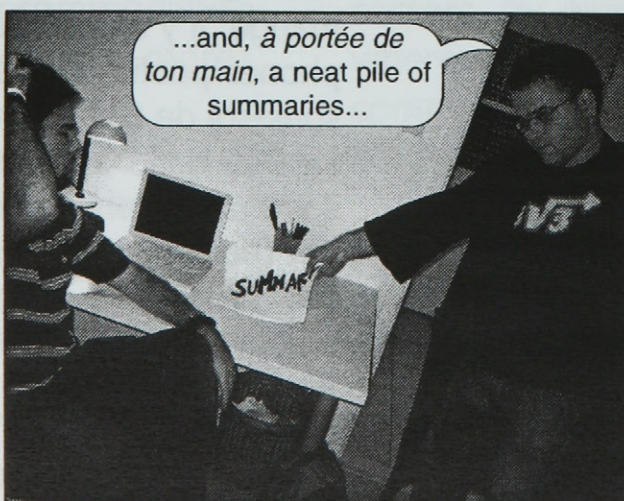
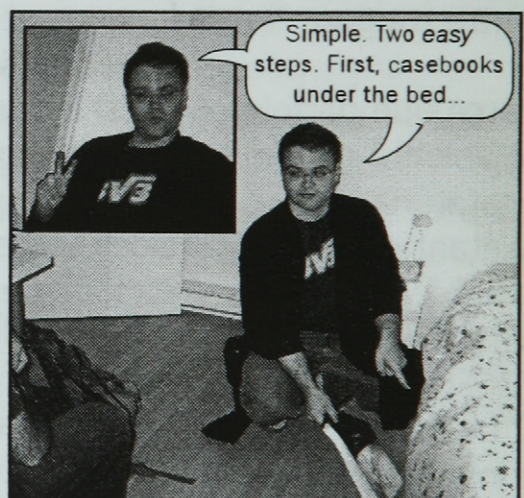
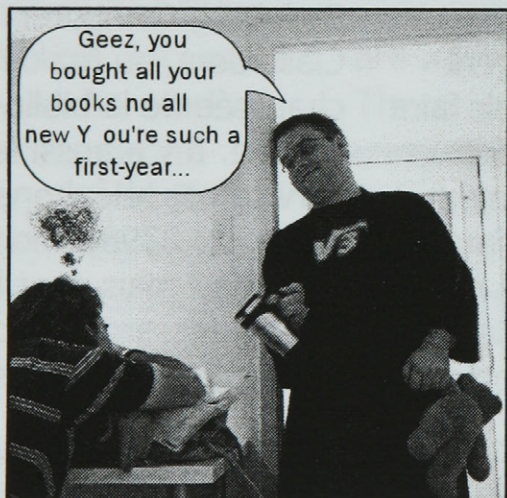
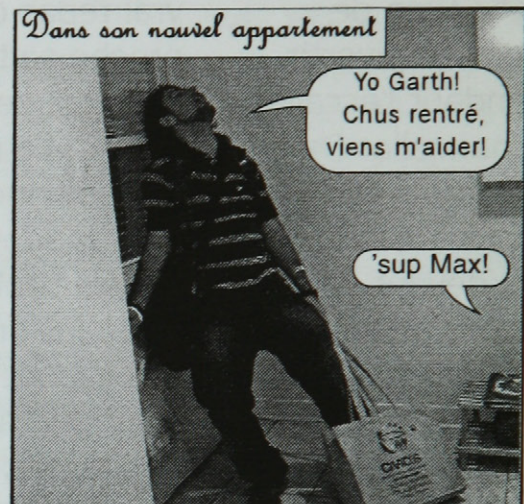
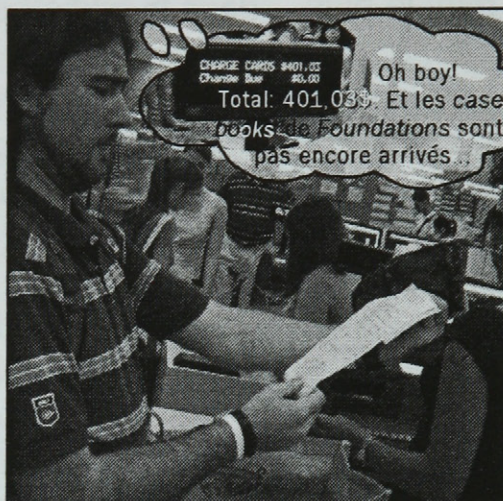
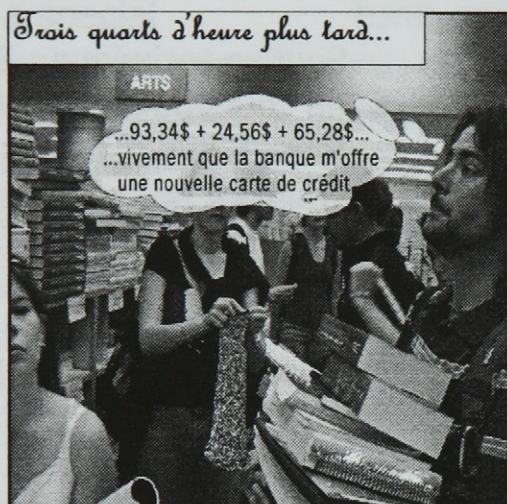
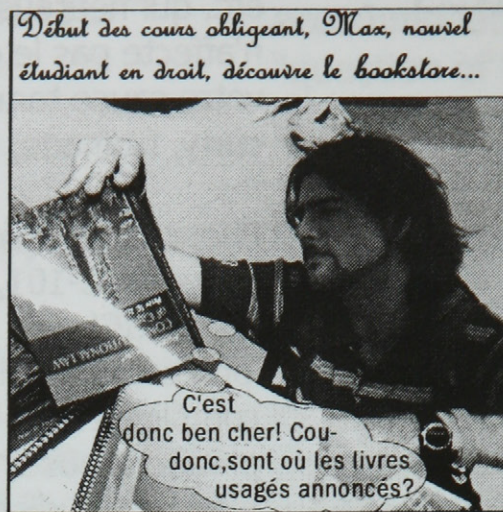
**Sieste :** Si rien n'y fait,

pas mieux qu'un petit roupillon en milieu de journée. En 2005, la partie supérieure de l'atrium a été choisie comme le meilleur siesta spot à McGill! L'ajout d'ordinateurs n'a rien changé, les canapés sont toujours aussi confortables. Seul moment à proscrire : le jeudi après-midi, Coffeehouse oblige.

**Soutien technique :** Il y a un cours de droit de l'informatique, mais pas vraiment de cours sur l'informatique de la Faculté. Si votre ordinateur fait des siennes, vous pouvez aller (durant les heures normales de bureau) au petit bureau donnant sur le Dobrin-Steinberg Computer Classroom, au rez-de-chaussée de la bibliothèque. Il y a aussi le service par téléphone (514-398-3398), moins spécialisé mais dont les heures ressemblent plus à celles des étudiants...

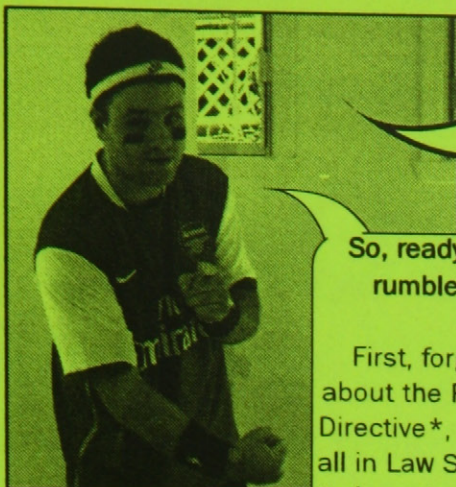
**Téléphone :** Si dépenser de l'argent vous dérange, il y a des téléphones publics de Bell au sous-sol de Old Chancellor Day Hall. Autrement, il y a un téléphone gratuit (pour les appels locaux) à côté du salon étudiant (voir plus haut). Il suffit de composer le 9 et de s'en tenir à quelques minutes, pour laisser la place à la personne suivante qui vient de lire cet article ■





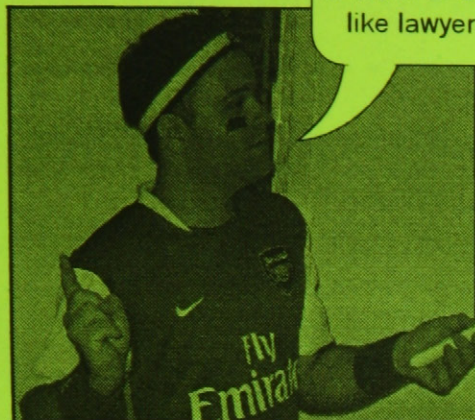
(c) 11.X.2007 MT/LBC





So, ready to rumble?

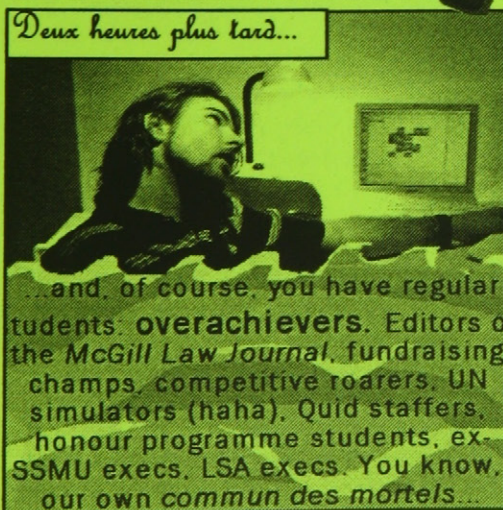
First, forget about the Prime Directive\*, we're all in Law School to learn to think like lawyers.



\*Mise à niveau pour non-Trekkies: la Directive première interdit aux membres de la Fédération des planètes unies d'interférer dans le développement des autres espèces de l'univers.

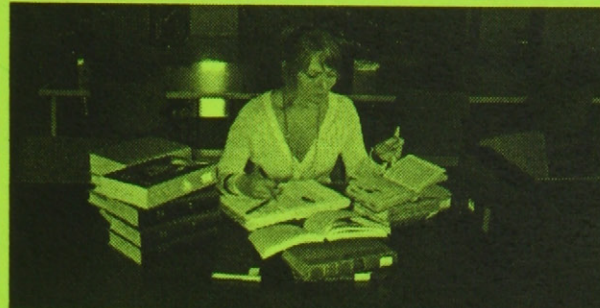


Une heure plus tard...



...and, of course, you have regular students: **overachievers**. Editors of the *McGill Law Journal*, fundraising champs, competitive roasters, UN simulators (haha). Quid staffers, honour programme students, ex-SSMU execs, LSA execs. You know, our own *commun des mortels*...

Here are the species you are bound to meet at the Faculty. First, the **Studios Student**, la Zélée: has read all assigned materials one week in advance, lives in the library, loves WebCT Vista, quotes Dworkin offhandedly. Gets Bs for being off topic.



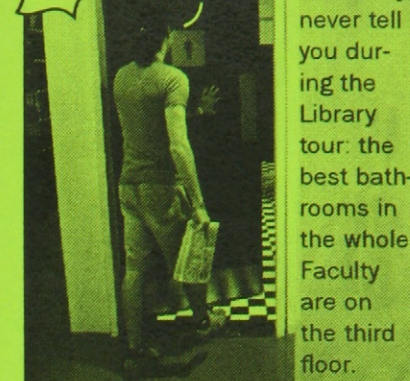
...Tricky one, the **corporate whores**: late-bloomers. Usually declare themselves in February, second year. Feed off Career Days. Prayer book is

CD guide, rosary made of business cards. Have inflatable hands to shake more **senior partner** hands at coffeehouses. Get Bs for wanting to settle out of court...



Gracieuseté du Kraken.

Attention: scène vulgaire.



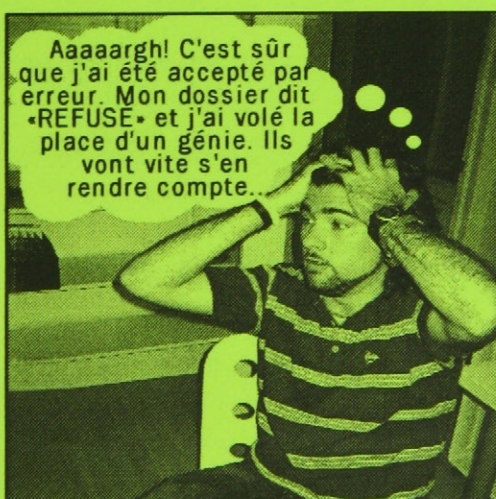
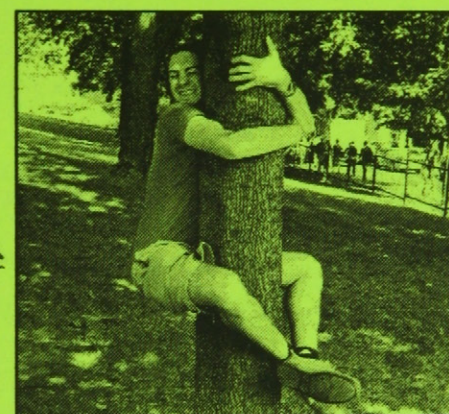
As to what they never tell you during the Library tour: the best bathrooms in the whole Faculty are on the third floor.

Speaking of free stuff: who needs to sell their soul to the Royal Bank when Thomson House has its own fidelity card\*!

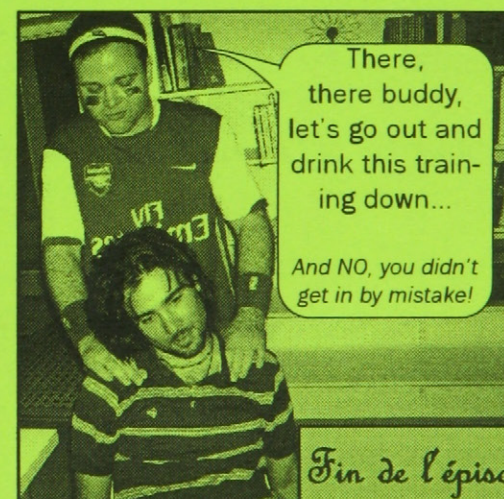


\* Ah-ha, la lecture de ce photoroman n'aura donc pas été entièrement vaine!

L'überaltermondialiste radical. Can name three Aboriginal Law firms. Resists all forms and systems of domination including but not limited to capitalism, imperialism and feudalism. Papers handed in with fair-trade coffee stains. Swears on Mother Nature lower campus exists. Gets Bs for mentioning starving orphans in JICP exam.



Aaaaargh! C'est sûr que j'ai été accepté par erreur. Mon dossier dit «REFUSE» et j'ai volé la place d'un génie. Ils vont vite s'en rendre compte...



There, there buddy, let's go out and drink this training down...

And NO, you didn't get in by mistake!

Fin de l'épisode

On aimablement prêté leur corps: Érika Bergeron-Drolet (U2), Christopher Campbell-Durufflé (U3), Olivier Cournoyer Boutin (U1), Frédéric Wilson (U4). **Conception:** Marguerite Tinawi (U3) et Laurence Bich-Carrière (U4).

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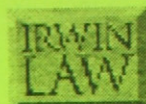
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